DRIVE TORQUE

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2014

Dunes, Dust & Dirt
Worimi Wandering
Christmas in July

Winter Solstice
Easy as Pie
Wellington Safari

SUBARU & RECREATIONAL 4WD CLUB INC.

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Monthly meetings held at:

Ermington Community Centre

10 River Road

Ermington

IMPORTANT STUFF!

CLUB CALENDAR – for full details see Future Fun on pages

General Meetings are held on the second Friday of the month at Ermington Community Centre, River Rd Ermington **starting at 8pm**

Committee Meetings are held on the Tuesday prior to the general meeting **starting at 7.30pm** at the homes of committee members – all members are welcome to attend. Please contact the president for details of location each month.

SEPTEMBER:

9th	Committee Meeting
12th	General Meeting
13th-14th	Gunning Fireworks Festival

NOVEMBER:

11th	Committee Meeting
14th	General Meeting
16th	Touring the Turon
22nd-23rd	Abercrombie River NP
29th-30th	Club Christmas Party

OCTOBER:

4th-6th	Barrington Tops Weekend
4th-6th	Bendethera Weekend
7th	Committee Meeting
10th	General Meeting

DECEMBER:

Put your trip here

Have you been asked to write a trip report for the magazine? Don't panic, it is not that hard. It doesnt have to be a novel, just an interesting description of what happened on the trip is fine. Please don't forget to include a list of trip participants and the cars they drive. Also, the sooner you write it after the trip, the easier it is to remember everything that happened. Forward it to the trip leader asap so they can then send it on to the editor.

Trip leaders, it is up to you to select someone to write the Trip Report for you. Whether you ask a specific person, ask the group if someone would like too, toss a coin to choose or use the old tradition of last person to the meeting point that's up to you but please have someone selected preferably early in the trip but definitely by the end of the trip. Please remember to also encourage keen photographers on your trip to send their best few photos to the editor, high resolution images work best.

To those who celebrate birthdays in August and September

Dennis Hoffman
Lauren Strickland
Robyn Johnston
Lyn Saddler
Joey Wellham
Marilyn Hood
Adrian McCormack
Jenny Ebenezer
Sandra Moss
Jake Lucas
Tayla Campbell
Cath DeSantis
Michael Reed
Sam Ebenezer
Brett Atkins
John Coombs
Judy Waters
Ian Waters
Kris Burdett
Troy Strickland
Cheryl Atkins
Lorraine Lynch
Michael Rush
Ann-Marie Meade
Andrew Rowlatt

President's Report

Hi everyone

Well, there's another AGM over, congratulations to all those elected and welcome back to Cath and Sandi who have both had a break for a couple of years. A little bit of girl power going on in this committee I think but I'm sure the boys will try and keep us in check!

To be voted in as president after about 14 years in this club is a true honour but also gives me a strong sense of responsibility towards our members. We can't always agree with one another about everything but one thing I hope no one will doubt is my passion for our club. I truly believe we are a 'family' and that is an important part of who and what we are. This was never more evident than at the recent funeral of Tracey Ackermann. Her passing, while we knew it was coming, was still a devastating blow to us all. Tracey showed us the meaning of strength and determination with her positive attitude right up until the end. She was extremely well liked by everyone and before her illness took hold was an active member of our club. To see so many of our members, new and old, attend Tracey's funeral to not only pay their respects but to be there to support David, Kaitlin and Ryan was a testament to the strength of our club in difficult times.

We are coming into a beautiful time of the year to go camping, 4wdriving and exploring and from talking to people and looking at other club calendars we are very spoilt in that we usually have many different types of trips to choose from on our calendar. These trips don't just 'happen' though! Most , if not all, have certainly been reccied and others, especially many of our extended trips are researched to within an inch of their life! Sometimes these trips don't always go to plan and there's nothing you can do about it. Weather, road conditions and car problems all come into play - read Jo's article on page 11 for her take on this. Hat's off to our trip leaders who do an amazing job, without them we wouldn't have a club but we do need more people to put up their hand to run trips. Our motto is "All Makes - All Tastes" so whatever sort of trip you would like to run, be it social, 4wd day trip, easy to hard, a weekend camping trip or even an extended trip, give it a go. Trips are the heart of our club and chances are if it interests you then it's going to interest someone else in the club as well.

On the editorial side - As far as the magazine goes, keep on sending stuff in. I already have some great trip reports for the next edition but keep 'em coming. If you have an idea for an article, recipes, handy tips, your favourite campsite or you have something to sell please send it in to the editor@subaruclub.com.au.

Don't forget when adding a trip to the calendar it would be greatly appreciated if you could send me a short paragraph for future fun as well.

Cheers for now

Julie

The Subaru & Recreational 4WD Club, its Editor and the Committee accept no responsibility for opinions expressed in this magazine, nor for the accuracy, veracity, safety or legality of any product or modification.

Material for publication should be submitted to the Editor, NO LATER THAN THE DATES INCLUDED IN THE CALENDAR. Photographs should include a descriptive caption, if applicable, and your name. The inclusion of photos with trip reports is especially encouraged. Information can be sent to the Editor by email to editor@subaruclub.com.au.

Trip Conveners' Report

Hi All,

Firstly I would like to thank David Wellham for his many years as Trip Convenor and doing a fantastic job. Mark and I will do our best to fill David's and also Jeff's shoes.

We have had plenty happening over the last couple of months and I'm sure you will enjoy readying the trip reports. The main one being the extended trip run by Jo and Julie to Central Australia. There was also Christmas in July, John Hocking's Day trip in the Illawarra, Sand driver training, fishing at Kylie Beach and a camp oven cookoff down at Belanglo State Forest. Alex and Hayley ran their first trip which was titled "Easy as Pie" which saw them visit a heap of bakeries. Well done! Stephen Wells also ran a Wellington Caves Safari trip.

As we are coming out of winter, the days are starting to warm up but still with nice cold nights to sit around the have around a fire, especially in the mountains, it's a great time of year to be out and about camping and enjoying the 4WD tracks.

Coming up we have a variety of trips starting with the Gunning Fireworks Festival on the 13th and 14th September run by Grant and Allison.

The Newnes trip on the 20th and 21st was to be Hayley and Alex's maiden camping trip but is now their second in as many months.

The October long weekend now has 3 trips on offer, Joey is driving up to Barrington Tops, David Ackermann is heading in the opposite direction into Bendethera Valley and Julie is heading to Mystery Bay on the south coast.

In November, Sandi is looking at running a bus shopping trip with dates yet to be confirmed, on the 16th David is doing a day trip to the Turon and on the 22nd and 23rd we have the tenth Abercrombie trip happening so book this in your diary.

If you would like to attend a trip, go to the club website, open up the trip in 'Upcoming Trips' and register. You can also email or phone the trip leader for more information or to book on the trip.

If you are thinking about running a trip, contact Mark or myself and get it into the calendar as early as possible. We are always looking for trips and new places to go and new trip leaders. It's not too early to be planning them for next year now.

Hope to see you at a club meeting or out on the track.

Troy Strickland and Mark Honor

Technical Officer's Report

Welcome to another financial year of the Subaru & Recreational 4WD Club! This year as Technical Officer I aim to provide information on technical aspects of camping & 4WD-ing that are not necessarily car related as they have been over the past couple of years. Not only do we all drive different vehicles, but my knowledge on technical car issues is somewhat limited.

First up on the list is car fridges. Most of us run a fridge in our car whilst travelling, primarily an Engel or Waeco brand. Personally I plug the fridge in before a trip and hope that it still works. A quick wipe out when I get home & that's it until next time. So with that limited expertise, I went through both the Engel & Waeco websites and found some interesting info & FAQ's that may be of use to you if you didn't already know, or like me, didn't read the operation manual until something didn't work.

Waeco CFX Range:

What temperature should I set for fridge and freezer operation?
Typically your home refrigerator would be running at between 2 and 4 °Celsius which is optimum for good food preservation. With camping refrigerators, some campers choose a temperature a little higher than that to conserve battery power. With WAECO *CFX* portable refrigerators you are able to select a temperature to suit your needs in 1 °C increments. For freezing, your home deep freezer would operate somewhere between minus 18 and minus 20 °Celsius. For camping applications however, minus 15 ° Celsius would be more than adequate and also conserve battery power.

Can you leave it plugged into 12 volts DC and 240 volts AC at the same time?
Yes you can. If both power sources are available to your WAECO *CFX* refrigerator, it will automatically select 240 volts AC as the priority so that you are not consuming battery power.
Can I run the refrigerator on its side/end?
It is not recommended to run refrigerators on their side or end. 30 degrees angle is the steepest recommended angle to leave the refrigerator running at.

Is the refrigerator making a "breathing" noise when it is in a quiet area such as a tent at night, normal?

This is standard in all capillary refrigerators in varying degrees. It is simply the refrigerant returning to gaseous state from liquid state as it moves through the system. Mostly you will not notice it unless you are very close to the refrigerator.

My food is frozen solid even though I have selected a temperature above zero °C. What is wrong?
Check that the emergency switch is set correctly to the "Normal use" position. Having it set to "Emergency Override" will cause foodstuffs to become frozen.

Can I tip it upside down to clean it?
With the *CFX* models this is not necessary as there is a drain bung in the base of the refrigerator for ease of cleaning and draining. With earlier CF models, yes you can upend the refrigerator if necessary for cleaning, but this should only be for a short period, you should not leave the unit upside down for extended periods and you should not restart the unit for several hours after turning the unit upside down, so that the oil can resettle in the compressor.

Engel Fridge's:

Do Engel fridge's need to be perfectly flat & level when running?
Engel fridges need to be level to perform. Engel has a unique compressor that is designed to be portable, the famous Sawafuji Swing Motor. It can run up to a 30 degree angle without losing efficiency.

I own an Engel Combi Fridge & Freezer. Can I use this unit all as a fridge?
The freezer must be maintained at or below -4 degrees celsius to ensure the fridge is holding +4 degrees. If you wish to use the freezer compartment as a fridge, you can use the fridge compartment to store dairy products, which will be approximately 6 to 8 degrees higher than the freezer.

Can I run my Engel fridge on a generator?
The only requirement needed for running your "E" or "F" series Engel Fridge - Freezer (the later models) on a 240 volt generator is to ensure the generator you are using is A.V.R. Automatic Voltage Regulated. Please refer to your generators user manual. If it is an older generator with A.V.R., it doesn't hurt to add an in line spike protector or surge arrestor.

The digital read out on my fridge has gone blank?
Usually this is just the battery has gone flat. It is quite easy to change, please refer to your user manual, simply remove the lid and the Philips head screws holding the top compressor cover in place, on the MT45F-S and MT35F this includes the hinge screws. Then gently turn over the end cover and you will see on the back of the temp display a round cap, to remove turn anti clock wise with a flat screw driver bit, and you will see the battery inside, remove and replace with a new battery. Replace cap, cover and all the screws and you are done. There have been two types of battery fitted, once again please refer to your user manual or the label on the inside of your lid for battery selection, LR44, or CR2032.

Do you need to unplug the 12 volt cord when plugging the unit into 240 volt?
Not at all the, the latest models (E & F Series) fridge / freezer will detect that 240 volt is now available and select it, leaving you battery alone. Same in reverse simply unplug the 240 volt lead and the fridge will switch back onto 12 volt keeping everything cold.

What is adequate space for airflow?
Provide adequate ventilation for your refrigerator by keeping it at least 6 inches away from solid walls. This will result in maximum cooling efficiency and minimum electric current consumption.

Cleaning of both brands:
- Always disconnect the device from the mains before you clean and service it.
- Never clean the Fridges under running water or in dish water.
- Do not use abrasive cleaning agents or hard objects during cleaning as these can damage the cooler.
- Occasionally clean the device interior and exterior with a damp cloth.
- If not using for a period of time, leave lid slightly open to avoid odour build up.

Information on Engel & Waeco fridges in this Technical Report adapted from:
www.waeco.com.au & www.engelaustralia.com.au

Ian's Shop

Hi everyone

Over time I have bought a selection of items at the best price possible , trying to cater to the interests and needs of 4WD enthusiasts and Club Members.

Just some of the items available include:

. LED torches
. hand tools
. high quality disposable plates and bowls
. knives and forks
. cling wrap and foil

plus many other incidentals.

To see what else I have available please email me at ianheathcote52@gmail.com. I can advise price , brand names etc and if interested I will then bring them along to our next meeting night. Alternatively you can call me on my mobile 0411 096202.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Ian Heathcote

WE'RE A BIT BIASED TOWARDS
THE NSW SUBARU 4WD CLUB.
As members you'll receive up to $500 worth of accessories when you purchase a new or used Subaru vehicle by 31 December, 2013.1
WWW.SUBARUPENRITH.COM.AU
Subaru Penrith
14 Jack Williams Drive, Penrith
1300 044 381
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1. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer unless otherwise indicated. Offer excludes Government buyers and Fleet Management Organisations. Offer is valid for new and used vehicles purchased and delivered by 31 December 2013 through Subaru Penrith. This offer must be presented at time of sale. Receive your $500 accessories offer when you purchase any new or used vehicle from Subaru Penrith. The value of the accessories includes GST and fitting. The offer includes the value of any pre-fitted accessories. If the value of all pre-fitted accessories does not reach $500, a voucher will be provided to the customer for the balance of the offer up to the $500 limit.

From the Wonderful Web World

WW-Waa - What the hell is going on in here! ☺ Thanks for electing me as your new webmaster (I think); I'm slowly finding my way around. It's like moving into a new house and all the doors are locked and like that famous box of chocolates "you never know what you'll get" behind them. But with some much appreciated assistance from our past webmaster I'm sure I'll open all those doors eventually.

I've been busy cleaning out some cobwebs e.g. 1200 dormant emails to free up some space, attending to a potential security issue to do with webmail and experimenting with an email distribution issue. It's been interesting digging around in there so if you see the site down then I've probably dug too deep and created a serious leak!

There are several changes still outstanding which I hope will be addressed by the developers in the not-too-distant future; some gentle nudging along the way may be in order. In the meantime I'm happy to receive your suggestions to help improve the site.

Gallery talk: A reminder that you can add photos to other folk's galleries. You can also add text e.g. your name as the photographer and also location information – go for it!

Thanks & Regards

Kevin

You must be joking……

Matt, Scott, Dave and John have been going camping together every summer for years. However this year, Scott's wife told him he could not go.

On the first night of the camping trip, the other three were surprised to see Scott come walking up. As he pulled up a chair by the fire, Matt asked Scott how he got his wife to let him come.

Scott explained, "It was the weirdest thing. I was sitting there watching Friday Night Football and my wife calls me into the bedroom. So I got up and went in to see what she wanted. There she was, with very little on and holding some rope. She said she had just finished reading 50 Shades of Grey and she wanted me to tie her up. So I did. Then she said she wanted me to do whatever I wanted….."

…. So here I am."

When All Doesn't Go To Plan.....

My first ever extended trip with the Club was the Corner Crawl back in 2011. I was so excited! We were going to Cameron Corner, Haddon Corner & Poeppel Corner, all places that I had never been before. The X-trail was packed, spares bought, food sorted, car serviced. I was all prepared and ready to roll. To cut a long story short, I remember standing in the Corner Store, for the second time that trip, the group looking at the map on the wall, Camps 6 out and trying to work out what roads we could travel on that weren't closed due to floods. Needless to say we didn't reach Poeppel Corner and went way off the planned route just to somewhat head back in the direction of Sydney. It was one of the best groups I had travelled with and one of my favourite trips.

Last year I decided to run my first 4WD trip for the club. I had done a few social outings, but to me that was easy, it's what I do for a job. I managed to con Julie into helping me, so out we went for the Reccie. All was well; turn right at the fancy letterbox and keep turning right throughout the State Forest and all would be good. With 18 cars on the trip, I managed to get everyone lost before we even got out of Mittagong. When we eventually found the State Forest, I think we had already clocked up 4 or 5 u-turns. Into the State Forest and old mate had changed his letterbox in the 2 weeks between the Reccie and the trip, and it was all downhill from there. 18 vehicles doing numerous u-turns before finally finishing at Kangaroo Valley pub. Seriously, how often do people change letter boxes!? On a side note, my vehicle was the only one that needed recovering that day after getting bogged in a water trough. What I did learn that day was that club members have a great sense of humour and were just happy to get out as a group for the day. Oh - and it was time to buy a GPS!

On our recent Dunes, Dust &Dirt trip plans changed due to unavoidable vehicle issues. 3 days in Alice Springs added not only Alice itself but also the Alice Show, the West McDonell Ranges and Rainbow Valley to our itinerary. Not in the original trip plan, but unavoidable nonetheless. Also a great opportunity to take in a little more of the Red Centre.

No matter how many trips people have run or how much effort is put into planning a trip, things do happen out there and plans do have change. An itinerary is put together as a guide. Notes on places are provided as additional information to enhance the trip experience. Both are a guide. A plan. Unfortunately the unforeseen can, and does happen, no matter the amount of planning from trip leaders. Weather and vehicle issues the main two of these. Carefully laid plans may need to be changed and adapted.

Club members, not only on extended trips, but day ones as well, should plan to be flexible and expect itineraries to change. They are a proposed guide only. A lot of effort goes into coordinating and running a trip, it is done on a voluntary basis, they are free after you pay your membership and they are not commercial tag-a-long tours. I am not an experienced trip leader, but I am more than happy to get out there and have a go and thank you to those who have supported me in the past.

I encourage any club members who are thinking of running a trip to give it a go. There is plenty of support from other club members, both before and during the trip. For those on club trips, please take into account the commitment and dedication of the trip leader/s who have put their own time into taking you out somewhere.

I have been on 4 extended trips in 4 years and only 1 of those followed the planned itinerary. Every single one of those trips took me to places that I hadn't seen. At the end of the day, so long as you have a campfire, good friends and a cup of port, does it really matter where in this great country you end up?

Tracey Amanda Yvonne Ackermann

1968-2014

A special smile, a special face
In our hearts, a special place
Memories are a gift to treasure
Ours of you, will last forever.

WINTER SOLSTICE AND NO MOON

A night drive with a prize

We started the trip with a BYO dinner at Wisemans Ferry park but as we had to pass the pub on the way to Webbs Creek ferry I thought "why not one for the road". This is where the first cards were drawn. The ferry crossing actually came to a stop mid stream as a car on the far side was waiting with headlights on and the ferry master could not see the way ahead. I thought the cables controlled the route. It was a completely still river and quite eerie when we stopped for a minute while a deck hand convinced the car to turn off the headlights.

Off the ferry and a left hand turn to Bicentenary Road and Wheelbarrow Ridge Track. It was very disappointing to see that it had been graded nearly as smooth as blacktop. But never the less it's a nice drive on a clear moonless night. Another card was drawn at the end of the track while a few pit stops were had. No names please.

Our small group turned back onto Wheelbarrow Ridge Road and headed off to Colo Heights, passing a large group camped on one of the properties. They had a great campfire going and the thought of gate crashing came to mind. At Colo Heights it was a right turn and left turn to Upper Colo Road, which wound its way down to the Colo River crossing. I must confess a vested interest for going back to this area so often as my grandfather's family were part of the early settlement here. He was born at Upper Colo in 1892.

Trip Leader / Trip Report

James and Gillian Wall - Landcruiser

Trip Participants :

Alex & Hayley Cadell - Prado

Ray Stanborough and friend - Pajero

Sunset at Wisemans Ferry

Anyway I digress and another card was drawn here. Ray seemed to be indicating that his were all Jokers so far, with jokers being wild cards. We tracked along Comleroy Road until the junction of Mountain Lagoon Trail where a brew break and card draw was had. The night sky was perfectly clear now and the temp was not too cold as we headed off through Mountain Lagoon and on to the Bells Line of Road. Mountain Lagoon Trail has been graded as smooth as a sealed road, far from years ago when it was nearly a 4wd track.

We drew another card at the start of Paterson's Ridge fire trail and our last at Burralow Creek campsite. Haley was the only attendee to have any luck, with a full house! So a bottle of Keepers Glove tawny port went home with her and Alex. The drive up to Kurrajong Heights was the most difficult part of the night and the view of the city we got was fantastic. A nice way to end the trip. Although we had a few pull out, the rest of us said goodbye to the first half of the year on a nice night.

Waiting for the ferry, with James pointing out all wonder of things in the dark of night

TIP

If you plan to do any night driving in the outback then a strong reliable light source is a must. Bad weather, night driving and the possibility of stray animals all demand the need for a clear view of the road and the standard vehicle high beam is not enough.

WORIMI WANDERINGS

Trip Leader: Brett Atkins – Land Rover

Trip Participants

Alex & Hayley Caddell - Pajero
Andrew Rowlatt – Forester
Andrew Wise - Pajero
Bernadette Tiller - Subaru
Michael Hamilton -
MJ Hamilton -
Paul Williscroft - Prado
Raymond Stanborough - Pajero
Richard Stevens

STOCKTON BEACH

TRIP REPORT BY WALLY AND ANNA KAWALSKY –

VIRGINS OF DRIVING ON THE SAND!

The adventure started at 9.30 Sunday morning when we met with the group in Anna Bay – 13 cars and around 20 people willing to make our day interesting and fun.

Wally was surprised to meet his old friend from work - Alex! (such a small world).

After introductions, and trying very hard to remember names, we had an informative talk from our team leader Brett and met photographer Paul, who would document all the trip. The whole group made us very welcome and gave some confidence that at least somebody knows this business! People started betting who would be stuck in the sand this time (somebody always does). We hoped it wouldn't be us.
The drive commenced at 10:00am heading to the entrance to the beach. We needed to decrease pressure in tyres to 15 psi and we discovered that our gauge wasn't working properly (different scale) and as much as we wanted to stay independent and competent, we had to use help and advice of others, who were very patient and very supportive. Thank you all! We didn't want to start the trip with stress.

Driving on the beach commenced! The beginning wasn't that hard but as sand got softer we found it similar to driving on icy or snow covered roads – right gear and no brakes, with decreased control of steering, best way was to stay to previous tracks. Andrew, in his
Subaru Forester started having some difficulties, struggled, but got through! Going down the beach we saw some other groups and single cars driving, some people came for fishing and parked on the beach.

First stop – Tin City! We parked our cars in a neat row for photo-shooting.

TIPS

When driving on beaches never park on the wet section of sand. Vehicles have been known to sink into the sand and slip into the sea. Always park your vehicle with the nose pointing to the sea and if doing a u-turn always drive towards the waterline so that the turning tyres are in firmer sand than if you turned with the vehicle positioned nose uphill where the weight of the vehicle would weigh down the driving wheels in the soft sand. If you're having troubles driving along the beach (parallel to the water line) and find the vehicle is wanting to slip sideways (usually rear to the water), point your wheels to the sea slightly instead of away - its the rear of these heavy vehicles that wants to slip down the slope and doing so will give the vehicle a chance to get enough momentum up to get out of trouble.

We got out to strong winds, it was freezing and sand was flying around! Nice break, but it was even hard to talk. We shared with the group our reflections about driving on the sand. Everyone was interested in opinion of novices.

Next stop - Sygna Ship wreck – and lunch, with all these new adventures we got really, really hungry. With sand flying in the wind, it was nice to bite on a bread roll and have some hot coffee. We took a few photos and made a video to memorise the trip. After half an hour is was back into the cars and we drove to some dunes to try our luck with climbing!!!

The dune looked very high, and watching cars making attempts to get to the top decreased our confidence! We drove on the side of dune to the top and went down the steep hill, it was easy and fun. But then we had to try to go up! A young bloke with learners permit and parents in the car went first to the top without any problems! Hurray! What a champion! Then comes our turn. With a little anxiety and desperation – we had to show that our Nissan X-trail could do it as well as all the Subarus, Toyota's, Jeep's etc. The first attempt was unsuccessful but we got not far from the top, unfortunately, we had to back down. After this attempt Anna decided not to be a passenger anymore and Brett took her place as a pilot and adviser. After 2 failed approaches, the next 2 were very good! Wally was very proud of the car and his efforts! Everybody likes the feel of achievement!

Bernadette was reluctant to go up the dune for a while, than challenged by others, decided to go with camera stuck to her windscreen. With Brett in passenger's seat, she made it!

Andrew, in Subaru Forester got bogged while turning to attempt the dune climb. The team went to work, using shovels and pulling the car out of the deep sand! Good experience to watch and learn what to do in such cases! The best part was that another Andrew was pulling Andrew's Forester. It had

TIPS

. Don't be afraid to deflate your tyres (you can go down to 10psi without damage in soft sand if you absolutely have to)

. Never drive over 60km/hr on deflated tyres

. Inflate tyres as soon as you pass the soft sections to prolong the life of your tyres

. Avoid driving deflated tyres on bitumen (if you have to, keep speed to under 50km/hr).

created a little confusion with communication.

After digging Andrew out of the sand, he went up the dune without any problems! Good driver!

After many successful climbs up the dune the group started heading to our final place. On the way there were some small hills of sand, beautiful open area of only sand with ocean seen in the front. What a nice day! We were very proud of ourselves, that nothing major happened to us and we didn't cause problems, till….

Going up the hill with no vision of what was behind, following Brett and Bernadette we reached the hill and making 90 degrees turn on the hill we got bogged!!!. Front of the car dug in the ditch, sand under the belly of the car and unable to move forward or backward!!! That caused a lot of stress, because we knew we needed help of the others to get out and the situation was quite difficult. We started using shovels to dig some sand out, but as per opinion of other experienced drivers, the car needed to be pulled out, so the strap was attached to the back of our car and the back of a car at the bottom of the hill. Pulling was difficult, as our left rear wheel was stuck in side of the sand hill. The car below didn't have enough grip in the sand to pull our car out. Another strap was attached to rear of car in front of him and using 2 cars we were pulled out. As not experienced driver in sand I kept my breaks on, afraid that the car might have gone quickly down the hill and smash into pulling cars, so all this procedure left deep tracks down the hill. It was pointed out to us that it is not necessary to do this as sand has enough grip to hold the car from rolling quickly down! Something that you learn! Next time it will be better! Thank you again for your great help!

And thinking about this experience, we think that it was good that it happened with such a great team around! I'm sure similar problems we approach in the future and going through it with you taughtt us what and how it should be done.

Another lesson – don't go up the dune if you don't know what's behind and how you are going to approach it! We will be more careful next time!

Our experience made us aware that we need more equipment for these sort of mishaps and with advice from the team, we know what sort and what quality. Thank you all!

The trip to the parking place to finish the trip was uneventful, easy. We stopped to pump our wheels up, say goodbye to all team members and thank them again for a great day, great experiences and great help.

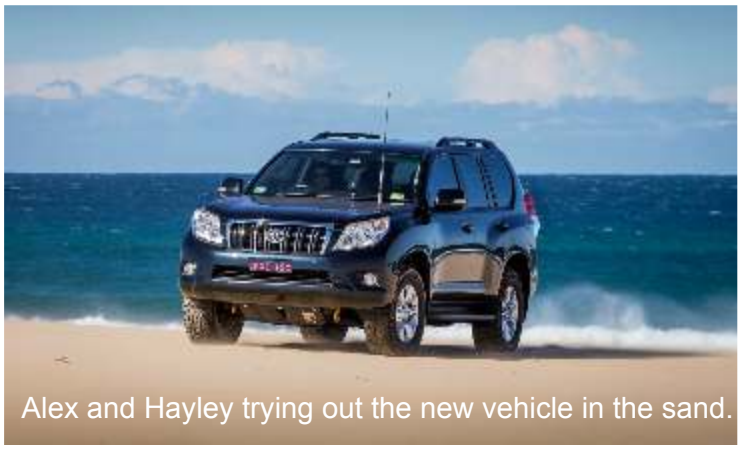
We hope we'll be able to go with you again soon!

Wally & Anna

TIPS

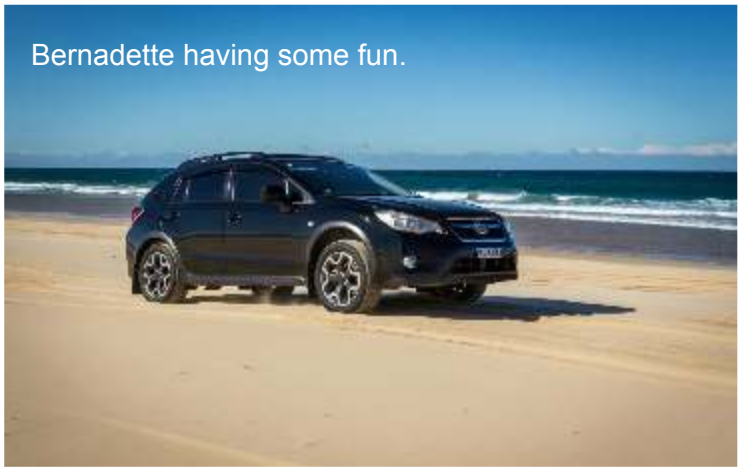
If you get stuck in sand, firstly check that you have engaged your hubs and are in 4WD. Once stopped, first try reversing over your tracks. If you cannot get out of the bog in reverse in one try, get out and deflate tyres more. Check that the diff is clear - usually by now it is deep in the sand and you'll need to dig it out with a long-handled spade. If the sand is particularly soft it sometimes helps to clear 4 tracks - one for each tyre. This is also a good method for reversing out of a bog.

Select a gear that will get you out of the bog without digging yourself in further. Try H2. Give it some revs to get out of the bog and onto a firmer patch.



Alex and Hayley trying out the new vehicle in the sand.

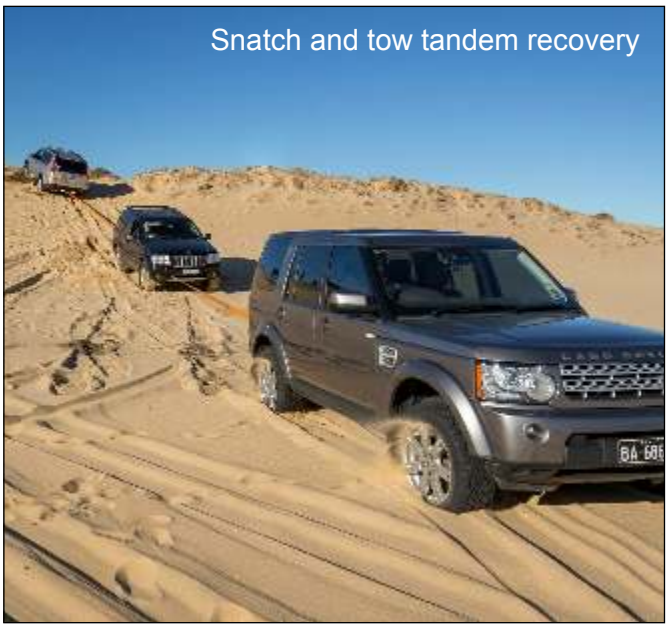
Oops, wrong way - Wally & Anna learn about recovery



Bernadette having some fun.

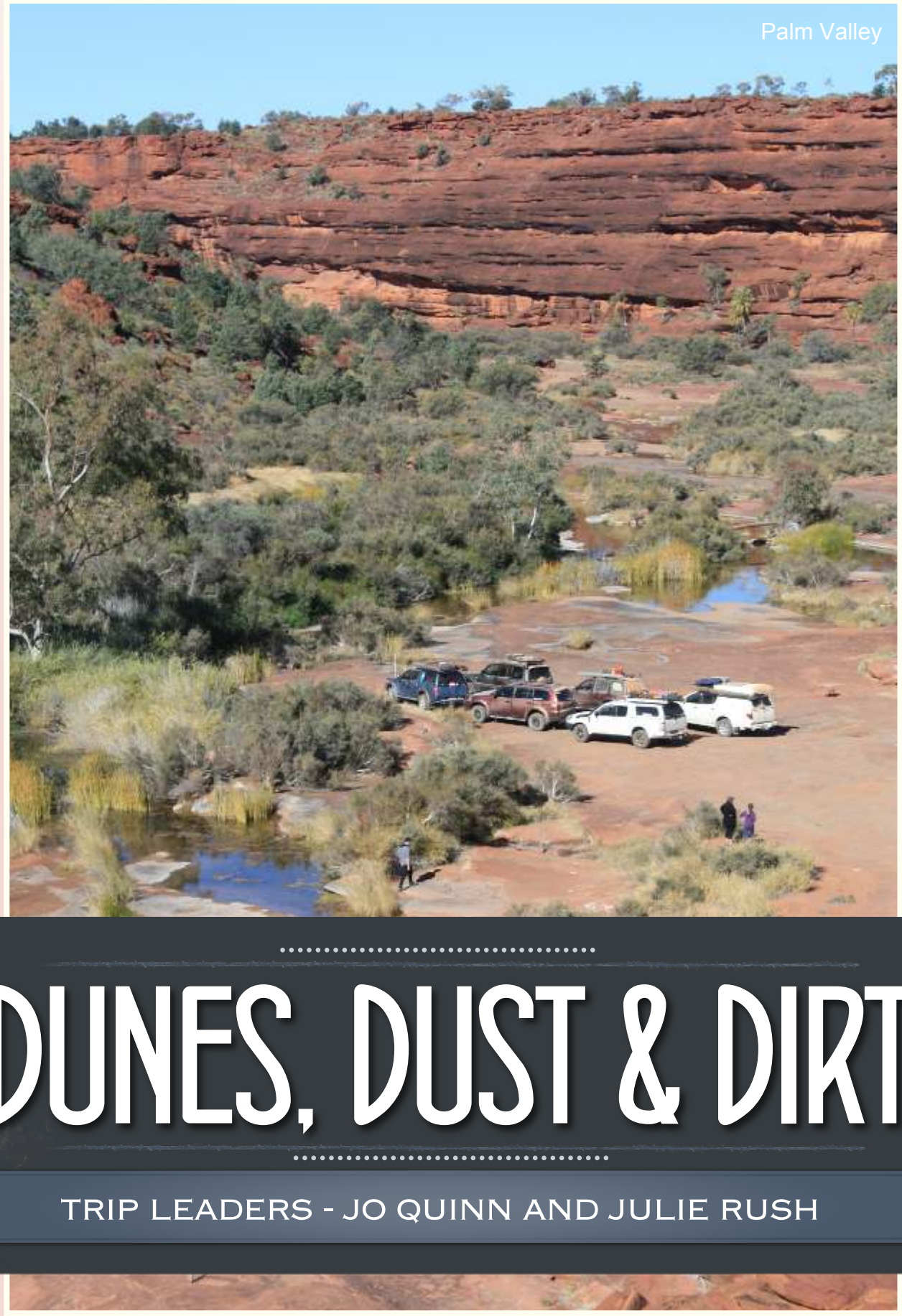
Sand recovery - dig it out yourself!

Michael Hamilton



Snatch and tow tandem recovery

Putting the new Pajero through its paces



DUNES, DUST & DIRT

TRIP LEADERS - JO QUINN AND JULIE RUSH

Trip Particpants:

Jo & Shahni Quinn - Ford Ranger
Julie & Zoe Rush - Mitsubishi Triton
Michael Dunstan - Mitsubishi Challenger
Tom & Cath De Santis - Toyota Prado
Kevin McCormack & Ann-Marie & Travis Meade - Mitsubishi Triton
David & Karen Horwitz - Mitsubishi Pajero
Loz Horwitz & Fabien - Nissan Pathfinder

SIMPSON DESERT
OODNADATTA TRACK
MUNGERANNIE
BIRDSVILLE TRACK
CAMERON CORNER
COOBER PEDY
ALICE SPRINGS
OLD ANDADO

17 DAYS TRAVERSING OUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY

3 STATES
1 TERRITORY
7 VEHICLES

Day 1 - After the bulk of the group arriving in Cobar yesterday, this morning we headed over to Wilcannia to meet up with David & Karen and Loz & Fabien. Lots of goats along the way and when Cath passed a road train. We stopped in White Cliffs for food and fuel and then hit our first dust on the way to Goodwood Station. Oysters, prawns and mini pies for fivesies and the donkey was fired up to wash off the dust.

Days 2, 3 & 4 - A night spent in the shearers quarters and wool shed kept everyone out of the rain and wind that sprang up during the night.

An uneventful days' drive out to Cameron Corner via Tibooburra, before a well-deserved beverage at the Corner Store. The wind saw all vehicles parked in a circle to try and get some stoves lit, before enjoying a port or 3 around the camp fire. The mandatory photo was taken at the Corner post the following morning before discovering David had our first flat tyre of the trip.

Finally on the road and a small side trip through the Moomba Gas Fields, found us meeting up with Walkers Crossing. Walkers Crossing was a great drive before turning onto the Birdsville Track, and southward to Mungerannie with more than one fuel light flashing. A warm/hot soak in the thermal pool and then over to the infamous Mungerannie Hotel for dinner and the odd drink or

Mungerannie Thermal Pool

two. Back at camp in the pitch black we decided to change trip flat tyre number 2 on the Ford. Up early and backtracking up the Birdsville Track, we reached the Simpson and headed up the Warburton Track. The first glimpse of the Simpson spreading before you from the crest of a dune is awesome! Salt lakes, corrugations, lots of ups and downs & washouts before settling beside a dune and enjoying fivesies under a great sunset, followed by a great campfire.

Massive salt lake - our first glimpse of the Simpson

"JO & JULIE HAD A FARM E-I-E-I-O!"

THE FOX, THE COW, THE PIG, THE CAT, THE DUCK, THE GOAT AND AN OWL WERE OUR NEW CALL SIGNS!

Day 5 – "Jo & Julie had a farm e-i-e-i-o!" The fox, the cow, the pig, the cat, the duck, the goat and an owl were our new call signs. First stop for the day was the Lone Gum tree where the koala had gone MIA. We decided to stay on the Rig Road and David and Julie were recovered as the track turned to soft sand. The scenery changed from sandy and dry with lots of dead shrubs to a lot of green shrubs and flowers in bloom. We arrived at our camp site about 3pm, surrounded by dunes. A lazy afternoon with heaps of flies – no, zillions of flies!

Day 6 - A new day dawned as we prepared for our last day of dunes. We awoke with ice on the windscreens and set out for Dalhousie. To the Rig Road we said fare adieu & then bonjour to the French Line. We made the usual stop at Purni Bore and also made some repairs to Jo's roof racks. After arriving at Dalhousie we all had a relaxing swim in the springs before having our Beach Party theme night at 5 where we all dressed up. Cath won the prize for her 1920's neck to knee bathers.

Day 7 - Rising before dawn we left early in the morning and travelled along the gibber plains to Mt Dare. A stop to see the sun rise over Opossum Waterhole was well worth it. Brekkie at Mt Dare then onto the Binns Track. Crossed into NT and stopped at Old Andado for lunch with yet again, heaps of flies. The property at Old Andado was like a time capsule. We crossed the Finke River which was dry, before stopping at Finke for an ice cream. Photos at the Lambert Centre before hitting the tar into Kulgera. A long day.

Day 8 - **"where the hell is Alice?"** Due to vehicle problems, one of our esteemed leaders left Kulgera quiet early to head to Alice in the hope of getting it fixed. The rest of us followed about 9am. A quick drive up to Alice at 130km, where unfortunately along the way we missed photos of the camels. We

Walkers Crossing

Beach Party, Dalhousie Springs

arrived in Alice only to find it was a Public Holiday, so no hope for the injured vehicle. We made the group decision to stay in Alice in the hope of getting the car fixed on Saturday morning. The caravan park was nice and most of us decided to stay in cabins. The Alice Show was on so a few of the group wandered over for a look. It was quite interesting. Others decided to head into town to take in a movie. "We found Alice!"

Day 9 - With thoughts of sick cars put aside, it was off for a day trip to Palm Valley. We stopped on the way at John Flynn and Albert Namidjeras' grave sites. We had a stop at the old Lutheran Mission at Hermannsburg where we all explored the well constructed buildings that depicted days gone by. Out of Hermannsburg we took the turn off to Palm Valley and aired down ready to tackle some serious 4WD-ing.

Ormiston Gorge, West McDonnell Ranges, NT

On the drive in we saw palm trees start to spring up in the middle of nowhere. We drove as close as we could to Palm Valley with a few technical parts on the track, then it was time to swap cars with feet. We started the walk into the valley and were all in awe of its beauty. A very steep climb out after the circuit walk and we were back to our vehicles. It was time to air up and head back into Alice. It was then that we discovered more tyre issues for Jo.

Simpson's Gap, West McDonnell Ranges

Day 10 - With the wrong wheel nuts and sheared studs, Jo was car-less and stuck in Alice. The group decided to stay in Alice until Monday, with the exception of the 2 Horwitz vehicles who decided to continue on their own way.

With Michael taking Shahni & Jo in his car, we headed out to explore the West McDonnell Ranges. A stop at Simpson's Gap, although windy, was simply stunning. Next stop was Standley Chasm, breathtakingly beautiful with plenty of photos taken. Ellery Creek Big Hole was also a worthwhile stop. The whole West McDonnell Ranges offered one stunning gorge after another. We stopped at Serpentine and Ormiston Gorge before heading back to Alice. Ormiston Gorge was huge with spectacular views and as a special treat we were able to see a couple of dingoes wandering around looking for an evening feed.

Day 11 - After gorges galore the previous day, it was back to getting cars fixed and Jo headed off early to wait for Bridgestone to open in the hope of getting the issues solved. With all systems go after a phone call from Jo, we said goodbye to Alice and headed down to Chambers Pillar. We had good roads into Maryvale and after a stop for icecream, the race was on to beat another group into the Chambers Pillar campsite. 43km of 'sheer hell' roads saw us arrive ahead of our competitors (who stopped about 5km into the track), at the magnificent Chambers Pillar right on sunset. Jo, Michael, Zoe, Julie and Travis climber the 135 stairs up to the base of the pillar for sunset photos. The 135 stairs back down again literally took your breath away. The first campfire in a few nights finished off a great day.

Day 12 - The start of another great day also marked Julie's birthday. As is often the case, the road out isn't as bad as the trip in, especially when one of the hills is taken in 4WD instead of 2WD! We all fuelled up back at Maryvale Station before heading down the Old Ghan Line to Eringa Waterhole. Stops at Boondooma, Engordina & Rumbalaya ruins gave us a little history of the Old Gahn. After following the Finke Desert Racetrack, we travelled another 30km for a lunch stop where we discovered yet another flat tyre on Kevin's Triton. After plugging the tyre we headed to Charlotte Waters for a quick look around and then headed to Eringa to set up camp for the night. On the way, with a strong wind and a road full of bull dust, we took the opportunity for some great photos. At Eringa, after trying to figure out what Zoe & Jo were mischievously up to, Julie was surprised with an awesome rocky road cake that was a replica of a rocky road, complete with little 4WD cars.

Chambers Pillar

Day 13 - After a birthday party for Julie the night before, and a blowy night, we left camp on time on our way to Oodnadatta and the Pink Roadhouse. Right up our alley - "whatever!" After leaving Oodnadatta, it was Julie's turn for minor car issues with a window stuck halfway up and halfway down. Lots of gaffa tape and a little later we were on our way. Lunch stop turned out to be a bit blowy. We arrived in Coober Pedy with time to fuel up and settle into our underground accommodation. We had a group dinner at the local pizza place where we had Coat of Arms pizza (emu sausage, smoked kangaroo and cranberry sauce – yum!) along with more standard varieties. A great night following a great day.

Blanches Cup, Oodnadatta Track

Day 14 - Had an early 7am start and enjoyed a quick breakfast at the Shell servo before leaving Coober Pedy. Back on the road we headed out of town on the William Creek road before joining up to the Oodnadatta Track again.

We stopped to look at a few ruins as well as Blanches Cup and The Bubbler. Unique stop with awesome views. Lunch was at Curdimurka Siding along with a stop to look at the bridge. A quick stop at Lake Eyre South then onto Marree to fuel up. Tonight's camp was at the "big city" of Farina. No bugs! The mood tonight was a little somber because the trip was nearing the end. Happy hour soon washed those thoughts away.

Ellery Creek Big Hole, NT

Day 15 - A mega early start, up at 5am to slowly make our way back to Sydney. A quick stop as we hit the early stages of the Flinders Ranges to watch an awesome sunrise. A brief stop at Parachilna Hotel that was all shut up tight, before moving onto Hawker for a late brekkie. We had long left the dirt behind and continued along the tar making our way towards Overland Corner. The Overland Corner Hotel was a welcome sight after an early start. Settled around a huge open fire we tried the locally brewed beer that was issued in massive glasses. The local port was also a winner. We set up camp behind the pub before settling back into the hotel for the night for our farewell dinner. A great night with fantastic hosts! Jo & Julie received gifts from the group and despite a massive meal, we all managed to fit in either "Death by Chocolate" desert or sticky date pudding. After nearly draining the bars port barrel with take away bottles, we retired back to camp to make a start on the port!

Day 16 - A leisurely up this morning with a detour down to the banks of The Murray before heading out of town towards Mildura. We saw Loch 11 open to let through a paddle steamer on the Murray at Mildura before heading slightly out of town to visit Orange World. Last of the gifts were bought, photos with giant pears, avocados & oranges were taken and the kids made our own juice on the spot. The long drive towards Hay saw us all book cabins that night as the temps threatened to drop well below zero. A second farewell dinner at the South Hay hotel that produced some awesome meals before going back for a night cap. Farewells were bid as everyone planned on departing at different times in the morning to make their way home.

Day 17 - The end of Dunes, Dust & Dirt as we all departed from 3:30am onwards to make our way back to Sydney.

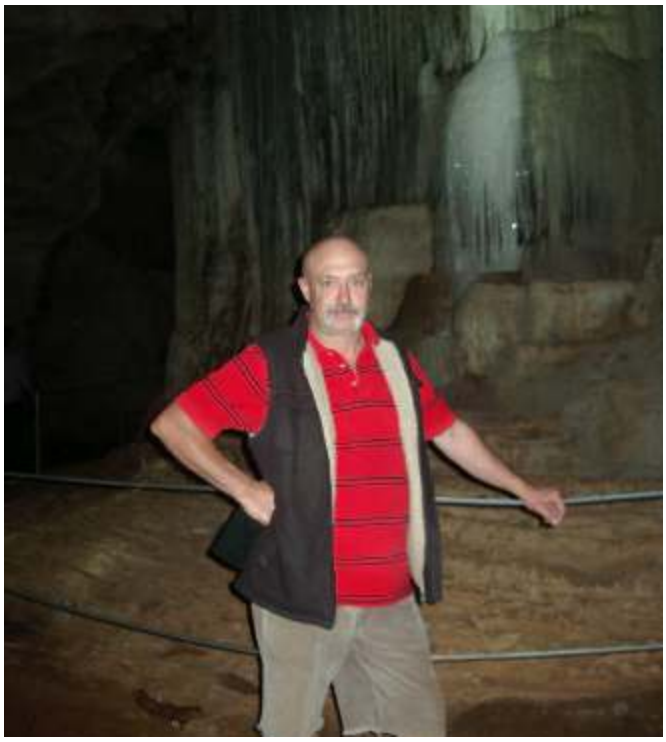
Gorges, canyons, pillars, history, deserts, rail lines, valleys, walks, drives, campfires, outback tracks and so much more ..... Dunes, Dust & Dirt - great times, great friends, great memories.

Murray River, SA

WELLINGTON CAVES SAFARI

TRIP LEADER: STEPHEN WELLS

Meeting point was somewhat delayed, due to AGM the night before. It was 11AM when me myself and I turned up at the Lithgow Shell servo. Lunch stop was in a park at Bathurst, then a short drive to a bustling country town of Orange. We missed the local growers market due to the late start, so we all fuelled up and an hour up the road we were at Wellington Caves. Quickly signed up for a tour of the Cathedral Cave which ran for one hour, was quite interesting down in the depths of the underworld. The Cow and Calf Hotel was the resting place for a night on my own, they provided a nice comfy bed, fabulous dinner and a nice ale or two. Up and early for breakfast then off the beaten track to Lake Burrendong, the weather started to close in a bit, the water level was low, and you would need to stay 3 or 4 days to explore the area cause it is one massive water catchment area. Slow trek back home thru the towns of Orange, Bathurst, Sunny Corner, Lithgow and a coffee stop just before coming down the mountains.



Cathedral Cave, Wellington

Lake Burrendong

XMAS IN JULY

The weather was not looking good as we drove up Bells Line to meet up with everyone at Hartley but as we crossed over at the sun started to peak through and by the time we arrived at the meeting place we were bathed in sunshine. I told everyone that was why we were late because we were finding the sunshire, they didnt believe me, I got the trip report! Being late at least gave everyone the opportunity to look around historic Hartley. We headed off for our first stop at Jenolan Caves. A quick stroll down to the Blue Pools rewarded us with views of the resident platypus swimming around. Back up to the Grand Arch and it was time for a to join the tour of the Orient Cave. The cave had some wonderful formations but my favourite was definitely the underground river. It did involve a couple of hundred extra stairs to see it but was well worth it. The water was just so clear and we all assumed it was quite shallow but the guide informed us it was at least a metre and a half deep! After the tour we had lunch at the caves and met up with Neil who was joining us here.

After lunch we left for our evening destination, Burraga Dam. John and Jean took a detour on the way to camp to have a look at Chain of Ponds, an old copper mine but on their return said there really wasnt much to see. It was a pleasant drive through rolling hillsides reaching camp about 3pm. John and Jane were already there and set up. Tracey had the camper trailer on and followed the route the rest of us had taken and managed to get bogged getting in to the campsite. With a little help from friends and after giving Craig a mudbath she managed to get out under her own steam.

There was a rather biting wind blowing in the afternoon so the fire was set up early to keep ourselves warm. At least the wind did its usual thing and died down at sunset. We had the whole campground to ourselves and it is such a pretty spot perched right on the dam.

Trip Leader: Julie Rush

Trip Participants

John & Jean Hocking - Pajero
Tracey Fitzpatrick - Sportage
Craig Fitzpatrick - with Tracey
John & Jane Evans - Forester
Neil Hird - Challenger
Bernadette & Chris Tiller - Subaru
Kim Nolan - Landcruiser
Kevin McCormack - Triton
Anne-marie Meade - with Kevin

Burraga Dam

Fivesies was had and then a wonderful communal dnner was provided by all including Muligatwny Soup for starters, mains included John & Jane's bourbon glazed ham, potatoes, mixed vegies, Kim's spicey fried rice, and chicken wings, just to name a few - yummo. Christmas Dinner wouldnt be complete without some home made chirstmas cake from Bernadette and sticky date pudding from Neil - yummo. A quick game of guess the Christmas Carol was the only real evidence of Xmas in July apart from the odd christmas hat, a bit more low key than usual but hey, things happen. A few drinks around the fire topped off a great evening.

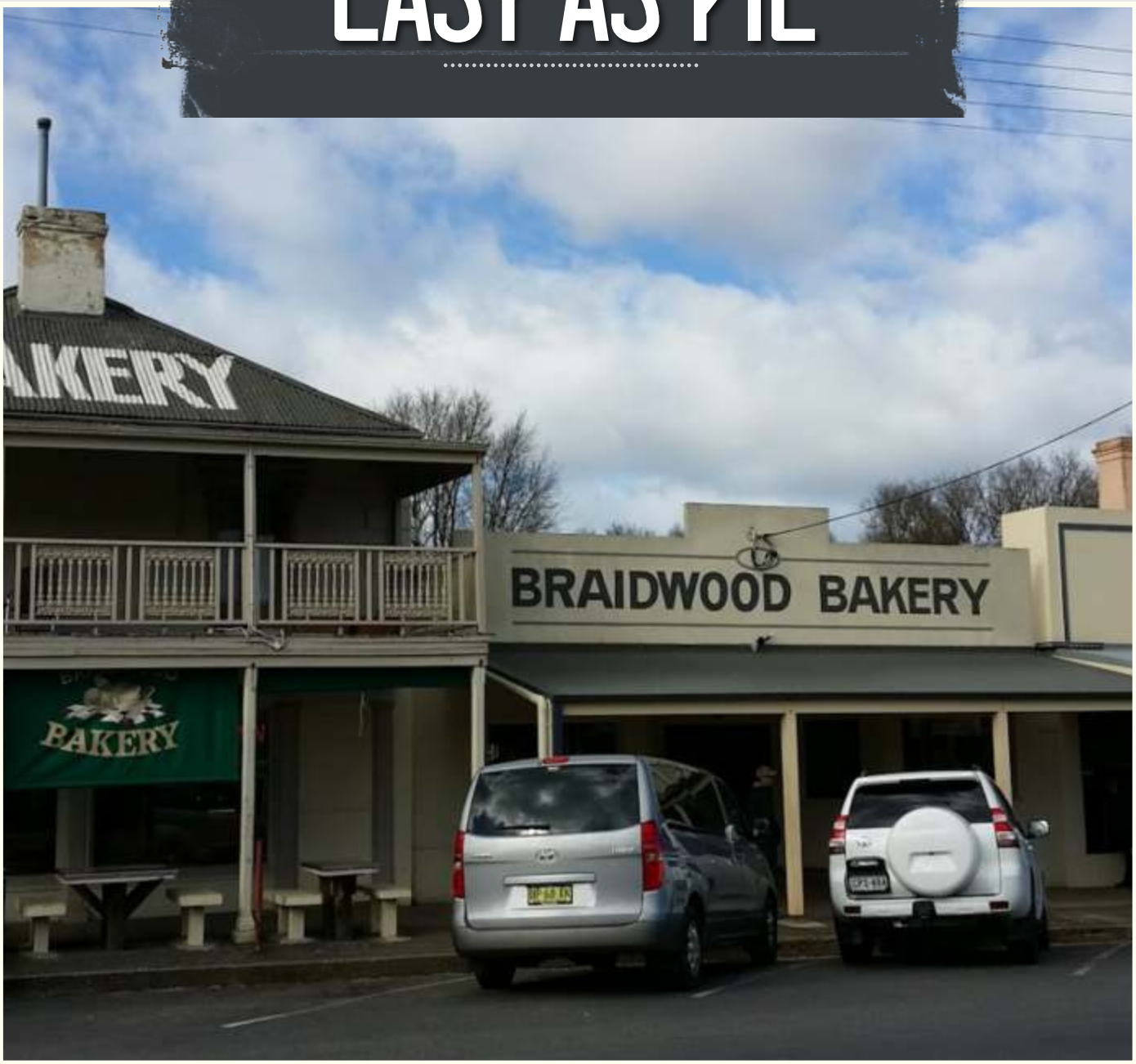
Next morning we woke to beautiful weather and went for a walk over to the old dam wall . There's a few cracks in it but she's still holding up. We checked out a couple of the other spots to camp at the other end fo the camp ground where John & Jean found a rope swing that they just had to have a go on. Luckily no one ended up in the drink!

Time to move on to our lunch spot at Hampton Halfway Hotel. The view from their dining room was just fantastic. One last stop at the Lolly Shop at Little Hartley finished off a great weekend.

Thanks to all those that came along for the ride!

Blue Pool, Jenolan Caves

EASY AS PIE



After 3 and a half years with the club, we were hungry to run a trip of our own, so we decided to run our first trip and make it 'Easy as Pie'. The plan was to track down some of the best pies in the greater Sydney area while enjoying some easy touring roads over a couple of days. We started on Saturday morning assembling at Pheasants Nest for a quick run-down of the weekend Pie-tinerary.

In attendance was trip leaders myself and Hayley in our 150 Prado, Paul and Renee Williscroft in their 120 Prado and John & Jane Evans and their youngest son Brendan in their 2013 Subaru Outback.

First stop, The Bakery of Goulburn for breakfast, located across the road from the Big Marino. Standing out with

TRIP LEADERS - ALEX & HAYLEY CADELL

Trip Participants:

Paul &Renee Williscroft - Pajero

John & Jane Evans - Forester

its classic painted tin roof, BAKERY, which surely could be seen from space, the large bakery has a good amount of parking to accommodate plenty of customers and even has some bus and trailer parking around the side. Inside, the bakery has a modern and commercial feel but is kept clean and organised. Even with a busy shop, staff were quick to serve and move through the hungry masses.

The highest rated breakfast dish was not a pie but in fact a Quiche Lorraine with a beautiful golden crust and perfectly cooked filling with an average individual rating of 4.1/5.
The disappointment for this round was the Bacon, Cheese & Steak pie. While the pastry had a nice thickness and flaky appeal, the inconsistent fillings left much to be desired. Salty and undercooked bacon, the cheese was OK, but there were little to no signs of steak in all pies. Overall this sad recipe rated just 2.9/5. Not a great start but only 1 down, 3 to go!

We jumped in our vehicles and headed due south towards Bungonia recreational area taking some back-roads towards The Morass and Lake Bathurst. No traffic, blue sky, sunshine and our hunger set on lunch at Braidwood Bakery. Arriving just in time for lunch, Braidwood Bakery is owned and run by Trappers, the same company who runs the Goulburn Bakery although unexpectedly the pies on offer and atmosphere were quite different. The staff at Braidwood were very friendly and there was great country vibe which showed from the veranda outside to the massive country loaves of bread for sale (as big as 2 medicine balls). The constant crowds of people passing through was evident by the lack of tables and crumbs scattered on the floor – as soon as someone stood up, another person was quick to nab their chair while wiping pastry crumbs off the table before beginning the ritual all over again.

The ‘pie of the month’ at Braidwood was the Thai Green Curry pie. Brendan was the first and last of us to get order one as they had already sold out. Seems it didn’t live up to the hype though receiving a rating of only 3.9/5. The filling was rated very well but alas, the pastry bought this baby undone.

The best Braidwood had to offer was the Steak & Potato pie sampled by 3. The poor quality of the pastry was mentioned again by all samplers, but the overall rating was 4/5 with a hearty filling and pleasing presentation.

The bottom end of this round was by far John's sausage roll. The pasty was burnt black and looked just as unappealing as John's rating; A sad 2/5.

We had a wonder around Braidwood for a while, heading to the lolly shop and BOTH antique lamp shops (heavy competition in Braidwood for lamps apparently). Once we had time to let the pies move into our legs, we jumped back into convey and started moving south east down the Kings Hwy. A short run down the Highway and we took a left and detoured through the Currowan State Forest. The track was freshly graded and in great condition. It was a nice run down to the Clyde River through the trees and passing various old holiday shacks and even a few new houses in the middle of no-where. We moved into Shallow Crossing State Forest and soon got down to the Shallow Crossing Camp Ground. Well maintained camp areas, with covered shelters, camp side kitchen sinks(!), canoe hire and rope swing. The ground is not too even, so best suited to camper trailers or a swag. There was a wooden ladder into the river to make it easy to get in and out from the steep banks. The site also had a locked toilet block with GAS hot water, which could be used for a fee.

We next found ourselves at the Clyde River crossing, just a couple hundred metres down the road. The causeway was only running at about 30cm, so it was no issue for the convoy and a good job first river crossing for John since getting his new outback. We continued up the River Road track into Brooman, and old shanty town that served as a home base for gold miners until the late 1800's. We stopped at a collection of old mining cottages, which were badly weathered and broken. We also stumbled on some old headstones from farm stayers laid to rest many decades before. After some quick pics, we continued our journey east and towards the coast and our evening accommodation where Hayley and I & Paul and Renee stayed at the Lake Tabourie Holiday Park. The Evans clan stayed at a motel just around the corner.

"Picking a winner here was tough. A total of 12 different flavoured pies were sampled here ..."

We departed at 9am for breakfast pies where we would soon find the unanimously voted BEST PIES of the whole trip! Hayden's Pies is situated at the lower end of Ulladulla. It's a small inconspicuous shop front but a massive and delicious menu from standard meat pies & vegetarian options to the more unusual stuff like gourmet Thai Chicken, vegan friendly pies and even Lamb Rendang Curry. There is seating outside and a nice large corner lounge inside with some additional tables and chairs too. It's a very friendly and warm atmosphere as soon as you walk in the door and the inviting smell of baked goods and fresh coffee is mouth-watering. This was the only stop where take-away pies were purchased; it was just THAT good!

Picking a winner here was tough. A total of 12 different flavoured pies were sampled here and 11 of 12 pies came out on top with average scores of between 4 – 5/5. The most consistently voted pie was the Roast Chicken Bacon Spinach & Onion pie that was sampled by 4 people with a minimum average of 4.4/5 and maximum of 5/5.

The pie which ended up being bottom of Hayden's barrel due to a pastry failure, was the Hot Apple Rhubarb pie. There was so much moist filling, the base of the pie fell to bits before it could be consumed. This pie would be best served cold. With cream! Overall, the vote was unanimous. 'I would make a diversion from my trip just to come here!'. Winner winner!

Bellies full, we rolled out the door and piled into the cars to head north, our next destination was Kangaroo Valley, a bustling hub of Sunday drivers with their sports cars and bikes, and locals alike. We drove through the town centre and out to Bendeela Recreational Area for a look. A great camp location, which flush toilets and plenty of open space. The back section of the grounds are only open on public holidays or long weekends, but the front section is accessible all year round. Still packed to the eyeballs with breakfast pies we decided continue north to Fitzroy Falls for a walk and some photos before the next pie stop.

At Fitzroy Falls, we had a look around the information centre before taking a leisurely walk out to the falls and scenic surrounds. As tummy's started grumbling, it was a good thing the final pie stop was just a short drive down the road.

Perched on a bend of road just outside the main township lies The Robertson Pie Shop. It is a very simple looking location, has an old corner store vibe going on. They even still had a selection of lollies behind the counter – 3 for 5 cents kind of thing. There wasn't a delicious selection of savoury pies on the menu as there was at the other 3 locations, however, there was a good number of desert pies and tarts. It felt rather commercial, and not as friendly and homely as some of the other locations.

The outstanding pie at Robertson's was the traditional beef pie sampled by 2 people. The average rating was 3.7 and rated very well for its presentation however at $6 a pop, the value for money compared to quality of filling was not a good deal.

The most disappointing pie was the Apple & Cream pie sampled by 2 with an average rating of 3. The filling was generous and well flavoured but rated poorly in regards to value for money.

Special mention goes to the volcano chilli pie for creativity, but not as 'volcanic' as implied – 3/5.

At this point, we had taken our fill and couldn't fit in anymore. The afternoon was pushing through and it was almost time to call it a day. We all drove back to town for a quick photo at the "Big Pootato".. yes… two O's… you all know what I mean. We collected all the Pie-Rate sheets and called it a day. A very enjoyable trip, with blacktop, dirt, a river crossing and plenty of pies. There are plenty more pie shops out there, an endless selection of pastry and fillings to be conquered. So enticing that we already have ideas about the second pie trip, "Pie to the Power of 2" or π^2 (Pi Squared).

Stay tuned for all the ratings in the next edition of Drive Torque, October - November 2014

Minutes of the meeting held Friday 11 July 2014 – Ermington.

Meeting opened: 8.00pm
Attendance: As per Attendance Book
Apologies: Jeff Flemming, Sandi & Troy, Paul Sistrom, Joey and Jo and Julie.
Minutes: Previous minutes not available
Correspondence: Magazines from Subaru 4Wd Club of Australia inc magazine, TLC Club of Australia News

President's Report - Away on an extended trip, having a great time. Reminder next meeting is the AGM

Treasurer & Fundraising - Balance $5,022.38. Association fees are due. Report as tabled

Vice President & PR - On a trip, nothing to report

Delegates - Nothing to report

Editor & Social Convener – Nothing to report, on a trip

Membership Secretary – Thank you to those who have paid their membership. Now due

Driver Awareness – No report

Webmaster – No report, away on trip

1.**Trip Convener:** Reported on past trips and invites new trip leaders to speak. Mentioned Alex and Hayley leading their first trip and also Steve Wells going to Wellington. Reminder about Xmas in July coming up

Technical officer – no report, away on trip

General Business - Nil

Meeting closed: 8.31pm

Next Meeting: Friday 8th August 2014 and also AGM at Ermington.

Minutes of the meeting held Friday 8 August 2014 - Ermington

Meeting opened: 8.10pm
Attendance: As per attendance book
Apologies:
Brian Flood, Heidi Lawson, Ian Heathcote, Nick & Amanda Capratsis, Alan Raisbeck, Chris Mifsud, David Horwitz
Previous Minutes: Accepted - David Wellham
Seconded - Tony McManus
No matters arising.
Correspondence:
Magazines from Subaru 4Wd Club of Australia Inc & TLCC Club of Australia News, bank statement, invoice and licence agreement from Parramatta Council for hall hire,Certificate of Appreciation from Cancer Council for Hawkesbury Relay For Life 2014, Advertising from Rich River Golf Club Resort and Road Tech Marine

President's Report - Kevin informed the meeting that Tracey Ackerman passed away this morning. It is a sad day for the Ackermann family and their friends including members of this club. A short time of silence was observed. Kevin will hold-over his report until the AGM following this meeting

Vice President's Report - No report as such but mentioned we are selling surplus pink club tops for $30 with funds raised donated to the Ackermann family.

Treasurer & Fundraising Report - Balance $6,480.89 - Report as tabled

Delegate's Report – Nothing to report

Editor & Social Convener Report - Magazine is out, hope you enjoy it. Difficult talking about social things tonight because of Tracey's passing. Mentioned Xmas in July weekend and the Cook-off weekend which may or may not go ahead but will advise.

Membership Secretary - Thank you to those who have paid their membership, now due. 64 members have renewed. Reminded members if they need clothing from the shop see Karolyn tonight.

Driver Awareness - Brett reported a thank you to those who attended the training during the last 12 months.

Webmaster Report - You can now add photos to other people's albums but you need to ask the owner of that album if you want them deleted.

Trip Convener Report - Reported on past trips,- Pie trip, Xmas in July and Dunes Dust and Dirt.
Mentioned upcoming trips - Wellington, Kylies Beach, Southern Illawarra all in August, Gunning Fireworks in September and Barrington Tops in October.

Technical Officer – No report

General Business - Cath had McDonalds vouchers for Echuca if anyone wanted them.
Ian Heathcote wants his email address added to Magazine
Brett Hampson mentioned Sydney Country and Western at Norwest on the 8th November.

Meeting closed: 9.01pm
Next Meeting: Friday 12th September 2014 at Ermington.

Member Profile
James & Gill Wall

Name – James and Gillian Wall

Children – None at home.

Suburb/Area you live – Kingswood

Occupation – Commonwealth public servant (Gill) and retired same (James)

Member since – 2003

Current Vehicle – Toyota Landcruiser 80 Series

Vehicle Name – Silver Fox

Tyres – BF Goodrich AT

Modifications – ARB bullbar, roof rack and Kaymar rear bar. Upgraded suspension and brakes. Stratos seats, MOMO steering wheel. Upgraded entertainment unit, upgraded headlights and wiring loom. Front lightbar. On board water tanks. Rear drawer system. Rear air locker and on board air compressor.

Planned Modifications – Front air locker, maybe.

Past Vehicles – 1989 diesel Pajero, 1994 petrol Pajero and a multitude of VW's

Dream Car – I already own it.

Favourite Place to Camp – Anywhere in the deserts

Favourite Track – Anything in the Victorian High Country

Dream Destination – The Kimberleys

Tent/Camper Trailer – Currently a Modcon Anniversary HF with a touring tent as an option.

Committee Positions held - Driver Trainer

First Club Trip – Victorian High Country 2003

Best Club Trip – Coongie Lakes

Some trips you've been on – Heaps, and we have enjoyed them all.

Trips you've run – Various night and day trips and extended trips to far west NSW, South Australia, NT, western Qld.

What the club means to you – It is our social outlet, our hobby and most importantly it is where our friends

NRL 2014

Footy Tipping Competition

Tipster	Rnd 15 Points	Rnd 16 Points	Rnd 17 Points	Rnd 18 Points	Rnd 19 Points	Rnd 20 Points	Rnd 21 Points	Rnd 22 Points	Total So Far	Ranking So far
Julie Rush	4	4	4	1	4	6	3	4	75	Still last
Jo Quinn	4	4	3	4	4	6	3	1	76	5th
Amanda Capratsis	3	2	2	1	5	4	6	5	86	4th
Nick Capratsis	4	2	1	2	6	4	7	1	88	2nd
Chris Malone	4	3	3	3	6	2	7	6	96	1st
Pat Malone	6	2	3	3	4	2	5	6	88	2nd
David Ackermann	2	1	1	2	3	2	6	6	79	3rd

Well, we are nearing the end of the season and by the looks of the scores it wasn't such a great idea for me to run a footy tipping competition! Anyway, it wouldn't look good for me to win it the first year round so I have obviously gone easy on everyone so far. Perhaps I have gone out in sympathy with my poor old Sharkies who are languishing at the bottom of the ladder just like me.

Chris is well out in front at the moment with the next few fairly close, Nick and Pat are tying for 2nd at the moment. Even though there are only 4 rounds to go, it is still probably anyone's game amongst Chris, Nick, Amanda and Pat. One good scoring round can still make a difference.

Jo, David and myself will keep on fighting it out for last place. By the time this goes to print we will be playing the finals rounds - good luck to everyone.

Cheers *Julie*

Trip Gradings

1 **Social/Scenic** Sealed roads and smooth unsealed surfaces or tracks. Suitable for all types of vehicles. No previous 4WD experience necessary. Road tyres are acceptable. Suitable for all camper trailers and small caravans.

2 **Easy** Dirt trails with possible loose surfaces, potholes, corrugations, shallow mud or puddles. Moderate inclines and declines. 4WD may be required. Low range not required. Some previous 4WD experience or completion of a driver awareness course preferred but not essential. Road tyres are acceptable. Suitable for camper trailers.

3 **Medium** Un-maintained trails, moderate to steep terrain, with loose rocky and rutted surfaces. Sand, water crossings or mud may be encountered. Low range may be required with recoveries possible. Previous off-road experience necessary. Completion of driver awareness course expected. A/T tyres preferred. Suitable for high clearance, heavy duty camper trailers with off-road hitches.

4 **Advanced** Un-maintained trails, steep terrain with loose, rocky and rutted surfaces. Sand, water crossings or mud may be encountered. Low range, high clearance and A/T tyres required, with recoveries probable. Previous off-road experience and completion of a driver awareness course essential. Suitable for purpose built, high clearance, heavy duty camper trailers with brakes and off-road hitches.

GRADE 4
Kevin McCormack's Forester on "that" seemingly unconquerable hill in Lidsdale State Forest. As a cut-out ascent with high walls, deep ruts and not much traction there is little to no choice for wheel placement so very few vehicles can climb it with success.

5 **Hard** Expect steep terrain, large ruts, rock steps, deep water crossings, and mud for majority of trip. Low-range gearing, high clearance and under body protection required. Completion of club driver awareness course required. Participation at trip leader's discretion. A/T tyres minimum. Rated recovery points front and rear of vehicle essential. A hand or vehicle mounted winch must be available. Expect recoveries and very slow progress. No camper trailers. Due to the inherent danger of this type of trip, children must be closely supervised.

These gradings are to be used as a guide only and may change due to track and weather conditions.

Minimum recovery equipment:
- A snatch strap;
- Two rated D shackles; and
- A UHF radio.

Visitors can arrange with the trip leader to borrow a handheld UHF radio for the day. (Please replace the batteries).

All vehicles should be in good mechanical condition and have the following basic equipment:
- Spare wheel,
- Jack;
- Wheel brace
- Basic tools;
- Shovel; and
- First Aid Kit.

These items should be carried on all club trips.

GRADE 1
The New Members trip to the Southern Highlands was a gentle intro into the club.

Convoy and trip procedures

1 When roads are rough or dusty, maintain a safe distance from the vehicle ahead.

2 Maintain position in convoy except in unusual circumstances.

3 Always wait at intersections to ensure that the vehicle behind you knows which way to go.
EXCEPTION: When drivers are known to each other and radio contact has been made, directions may be given over the CB, to allow the convoy to keep moving.

4 When arriving at a hard section (i.e. creek crossing, steep hill, washout etc.) wait for the vehicle ahead to clear, or to be called through on the CB.

5 Always stay on the track – Don't stray into the bush!

6 If you want to leave the convoy, tell the trip leader what you want to do. Don't just wander off!

7 When using the CB, allow time between transmissions for others to call and keep transmissions short to allow for emergency transmissions.

8 If there is an emergency call, the trip leader should be the ONLY person to reply. If the trip leader is unable to clearly receive the message, a person will be appointed to relay the radio traffic. All other transmissions MUST cease until the trip leader advises that the emergency is over.
EXCEPTION: Radio silence may be broken for another emergency.

STAY IN TOUCH

When on trips our club uses broadcast channel
15 UHF

The alternate channel is
16 UHF

9 Only people nominated by the trip leader should help others through obstacles ("Too many cooks ...")

10 The position of "tail-end Charlie" will be allotted by the trip leader. This person will be required to advise the Trip Leader of various events during the trip, and stay with his/her vehicle and operate the CB should an emergency situation arise.

11 Take nothing but photos (and video), and leave nothing but foot prints (and tyre tracks).

FUTURE FUN - what's coming up

NEWNES WEEKEND
Trip Leader - Alex & Hayley Caddell
Contact Alex on 0404838428 or seymour2711@gmail.com
Date - 20-21 September
Grading - Easy

Alex and I will be leading our first 4wd club trip leaving Windsor at 8am heading out to Wollemi, Glow Worm Cave and camping at Newnes on Saturday night. 4wd access only.

BARRINGTON TOPS CAMPING WEEKEND
Trip Leader - Joey Wellham
Contact Joey on 0400 522 716 or wellhamcorp@bigpond.com-
Date - 4-6 October
Grading - Easy

Join me for a relaxing camping weekend at Barrington Tops. We will be camping at Polblue camp site. We will go on some nice walks, interesting drives and relax at the campsite.

BENDETHERA
Trip Leader - David Ackermann
Contact David on 0433121305 or dackermann07@gmail.com
Date - 4-6 October
Grading - Medium

Not suitable for all cars, must have low range and high clearance, no trailers on these tracks and a limit of 15 cars. Leave Dry Creek on Saturday morning and travel on the Merricumbene Fire Trail for some of the best 4wding in NSW to campsite at Bendethera.

MYSTERY BAY
Trip Leader - Julie Rush
Contact Julie on 0409307381 or therushes@hotmail.com
Date - 1-6 October
Grading - Social / Easy

Join us at the beautiful Mystery Bay on the south coast, about 15 minutes past Narooma for a few days of r & r. Camp fires allowed, pit toilets, cold showers and stunning views. Bordered on each side by Murramurang National Park and only 10 minutes or so from the quaint little village of Tilba Tilba.

FUTURE FUN - what's coming up cont.

TOURING THE TURON
Trip Leader - David Wellham
Contact David on 0419 226 203 or wellhamcorp@bigpond.com
Date - 16 November
Grading - Easy

A day trip to the Turon Rivet National Park Lots of river crossings and if we are lucky we might even find some gold?

ABERCROMBIE THE TENTH
Trip Leader - David Wellham
Contact David on 0419 226 203 or wellhamcorp@bigpond.com
Date - 22-23 November
Grading - Hard

Annual trip to Abercrombie River National Park. Join us for great weekend of 4WD and camping. Try your luck at getting up "that hill" Little Bald Hill first go. Easy in a big car with low range if you know how. Very hard in a small car without low range even if you walk it first. Camping at Silent Creek deep within the park so it will be a wonderful night around the camp fire without phone reception. See you there!

BUS SHOPPING TRIP
Trip Leader - Sandi Strickland
Contact Sandi on 0414870168
Date - 22 November
Grading - Social

A full days shopping at some the best discount outlets in Sydney including lunch at a pub/restaurant. Come along and shop till ya drop!

ANNUAL CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY - MARK THE DATE IN YOUR CALENDAR

Date - 29-30 November
Trip Leader - Karen Campbell
Grading - Social

Future Fun and the calendar in this edition of Drive Torque are correct at the time of printing. For the latest calendar information, see the club's website: subaru4wdclub.com.

Members wanting to join a trip should register on the Club's website. Please remember to check with the trip leader a day or so before the trip to allow the trip leader to advise members of any changes or cancellations. Don't forget to advise the trip leader if you need to pull out.

CLUB SHOP

To order please contact Karolyn on 0459111096 or email membership@subaruclub.com.au

JACKET

$95

VEST

$34

RUGBY TOP

$35 (to be confirmed)

MEN'S SHIRT

$44

LADIES SHIRT

$44

MEN'S POLO

$30

LADIES POLO

$30

LADIES PINK

$30

CAPS

$15 each

One size fits all

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Forester 2.5i-S shown

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